information that will be usable across the Internet, while also allowing other, additional elements to be added that make sense within a specific discipline.  These additional element sets can be linked with Dublin Core to meet the need for extensibility, to aid in additional resource discovery, and to accommodate the precision and granularity needed for access.

NC ECHO has adopted Dublin Core because it adequately describes resources found in the library, archival, museum, and other cultural heritage institutions that form the collective NC ECHO community.  The standard is open and amenable to involving all of these communities, without excluding groups of users.  Other metadata standards, such as MARC, have historically been difficult to adopt by non-library communities, such as museums or historical societies for their non-library collections.  While more robust metadata standards exist and are encouraged by NC ECHO, Dublin Core provides a minimum standard that is internationally accepted. It provides a framework for metadata expression and includes the minimum amount of information that should be included. Dublin Core is relatively simple to learn and easy to use for those institutions that might not have a professional cataloger on staff, and its elements cover the most essential information about a resource. These implementation guidelines focus on defining Dublin Core fields (content) and provides examples using HTML <meta> elements (syntax). The Dublin Core standard is independent of syntax, though, and these implementation guidelines can be used to construct data in a variety of different systems. For assistance on applying these implementation guidelines in a local system, please contact the NC ECHO Metadata Coordinator (kwisser@unc.edu).

**Overview of Dublin Core Elements and Metadata Types**

| Metadata Type | Element | Metadata Type | Element |
|---|---|---|---|
| Descriptive/Analytical | Title | Structural | Source |
| | Creator | | Relation |
| | Subject | Administrative | Publisher |
| | Description | | Date |
| | Publisher | | Format |
| | Contributor | | Identifier |
| | Date | | Source |
| | Type | | Language |
| | Format | | Rights |
| | Identifier | | Publisher |
| | Source | | Date |
| | Language | | |
| | Relation | | |
| | Coverage | | |

**Interoperability: "Shareable" metadata**

Traditionally, as cultural heritage institutions automated collections information, each sector developed unique practices, procedures, and semantics for describing their objects. Interoperability is a set of hardware, software, policies, and procedures that allows for the exchange and re-use of information across a collaborative network.  This network aims to encompass the entire state through the broad cultural heritage framework using a variety of technical initiatives.  In order to share data effectively, institutions need to be aware of the impact that semantic choices create (particularly for describing similar concepts, such as "author" or "creator."  In addition, accurate syntactic information enables computer operations to work effectively in the computer environment.  By adopting a common set of best practices, controlled vocabularies, and input tools, and by participating in interoperable networks, institutions can increase their visibility and provide opportunities to create new connections with other cultural